Government has already constituted a National Disaster Management Authority to lay down the plans and policies for disaster management. The functions which the authority may perform, *inter alia*, include laying down guidelines to be followed by different Ministries and Departments of the Government of India for the purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects. The authority may also take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or the mitigation of its effects, or for preparedness and capacity building for dealing with the threatening disaster situation or disaster as it may consider necessary.

The Government are also implementing measures for mitigation and capacity building. Core Groups have been constituted for advising on mitigation of risks from earthquake, cyclone and landslide. An Expert Committee was also constituted to formulate model building bye laws, town and country panning legislation, zoning and building regulations for incorporating disaster resistant features. The report of this Committee has since been shared with the State Governments.

A community based Disaster Risk Management Programme has been taken up in 169 districts in 17 most hazards prone States, which aims at sustainable reduction in disaster risk *inter alia* by awareness generation and capacity development for multi hazard preparedness, response and mitigation at various levels.

Re-investigation of killing of DPSI

3423. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the parents of Mahtab Singh, S.I., Delhi Police, recipient of Gallantry Award who was reportedly killed in the encounter with gangster at Panipat, have sent any appeal to the Police Commissioner of Delhi for the reinvestigation of the case by the C.B.I. and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The father of late Shri Mehtab Singh, Sub Inspector of Delhi Police had submitted a petition to the Commissioner

of Delhi Police containing, *inter alia*, the allegations that (i) his son was not killed in the encounter but murdered in a planned and organized way; and (ii) on the basis of a forged marriage certificate, the entire family pension and gratuity along with the Gallantry Award have been grabbed by a lady who is claiming to be the wife of his deceased son. However, on enquiry conducted by Delhi Police, the allegations have been found to be false and baseless.

Hampering of anti-naxal operations due to shortage of helicopter pilots

†3424. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that helicopters are not being used in launching anti-naxal movement in naxal affected States due to shortage of pilots;

(b) whether Government have received any information from States in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Helicopters are provided to the naxal affected States mainly for need based movement of police personnel and evacuation of casualties. In the recent past, helicopters have been provided to Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra for such purposes.

Vacancies in various departments of the Home Ministry

3425. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backlog vacancies in various cadres as on 31.3.04 in all the departments under the Ministry;

(b) the number of vacancies filled in during last two years; and

(c) what are the backlog vacancies as on 31.3.2006?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.